

Application No.: 09/838,542  
Docket No.: 87326.1980

Patent

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application .

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 11, and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for stabilizing a pair of parallel coaxial lines within a tower, with a topmost portion of each coaxial line being fixed to the tower, and a lower end of each coaxial line free to move vertically relative to the tower, the apparatus comprising:

an expandable element disposed in-line [[along]] as part of a first portion of [[the]] a first one of the pair of coaxial lines; and

a frame rigidly tying together the pair of coaxial lines at a second portion of each one of the pair of coaxial lines below the expandable element of the first one of the pair of coaxial lines.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines tied together each comprise an elbow.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame ties together the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines so that they are retained in a common horizontal plane.

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4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the frame ties together the elbows of the pair of coaxial lines so that they are retained in a common horizontal plane.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes a cross member that is strapped to each of the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the frame includes a cross member that is strapped to each of the elbows of the pair of coaxial lines.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame further includes a stabilization assembly that surrounds the first one of said pair of coaxial lines at a position above the expandable element thereof and permits vertical travel of the first one of said pair of coaxial lines relative to the frame at the surrounded position, while inhibiting lateral movement of the first one of said pair of coaxial lines at that position relative to the frame, thereby permitting the expandable element to expand and contract vertically while inhibiting axial misalignment of the line above and below the expandable element of the first one of said pair of coaxial lines.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a multiplicity of spring hangers, each of which provides a portion of the suspension of one of the pair of coaxial lines from the tower at one of a multiplicity of locations along the vertical extent

of the tower, whereby said spring hangers permit vertical travel of the coaxial line relative to the tower, and inhibit lateral movement of the coaxial line relative to the tower.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expandable element is corrugated.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for stabilizing a pair of parallel coaxial lines for an antenna having a tower, with a topmost portion of each of the pair of coaxial lines being fixed to the tower, and a lower end of each of the pair of coaxial lines free to move vertically relative to the tower, the apparatus comprising:

expansion means disposed in-line ~~[[along]]~~ as part of a first portion of ~~[[the]]~~ a first one of the pair of coaxial lines; and

~~[[tying]]~~ means for rigidly tying together the pair of coaxial lines at a second portion of each of the pair of lines below the expansion means.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines tied together each comprise an elbow.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tying means ties together the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines so that they are retained in a common horizontal plane.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the tying means ties together the elbows comprising the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines so that they are retained in a common horizontal plane.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tying means include a cross member that is strapped to each of the second portions of the pair of coaxial lines.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the tying means includes a cross member that is strapped to each of the second portions of the respective elbows of the pair of coaxial lines.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tying means further includes a stabilization assembly that surrounds the first one of the pair of coaxial lines at a position above the expansion means and permits vertical travel of the first one of the pair of coaxial lines relative to the tying means at the surrounded position, but inhibits lateral movement of the first one of the pair of coaxial lines at that position relative to the tying means, thereby permitting the expansion means to expand and contract vertically, while inhibiting axial misalignment of the first one of the pair of coaxial lines above and below the expansion means.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the expansion means comprises a flexible section.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing a pair of parallel coaxial lines for an antenna having a tower, with an upper portion of each of ~~[[a]]~~ said pair of coaxial lines being fixedly suspended from the tower, and a lower end of each of the pair of coaxial lines free to move vertically relative to the tower, the method comprising the steps of:

providing, as a part of the first one of the pair of coaxial lines, an expandable element in-line at a location between the upper portion and the lower end of the first of the pair of coaxial lines; and

holding the lower ends of the pair of coaxial lines together at a relative horizontal height with each other.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of permitting the lower ends of the pair of coaxial lines to move vertically relative to the tower, while simultaneously holding the lower ends of the pair of coaxial lines at the same height as each other.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the portions of the pair of coaxial lines tied together each comprise an elbow.